

Date

Dev D. Jani, Ph.D.
2202 Pine Street
New Orleans, LA 70118

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2016-885

Dear Mr. Jani:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its October 21, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether you may be appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences at Tulane University. You stated that you are currently serving as the appointed Deputy Director/Chief, Planning & Preparedness at the City of New Orleans – Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. You also stated that Tulane University would like to appoint you to serve as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences for which you would provide instruction in the evening for three hours one day a week. You provided information that the course you will be teaching is entitled “Environmental Aspects of Disaster” and is completely unrelated to your job duties with the City of New Orleans. Finally, you stated that your employer, the City of New Orleans – Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, does not have any contracts or business affiliations with the Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences or Tulane University.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit you from being appointed to serve as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences at Tulane University. La. R.S. 42:1111C(1)(a) prohibits a public servant from receiving any thing of economic value for any service, the subject matter of which is devoted substantially to the responsibilities, programs, or operations of the agency of the public servant and in which the public servant has participated. La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) prohibits a public servant from performing compensated services to a person that has or seeks a business, financial or contractual relationship with the public servant’s agency. Because you would be teaching a course regarding matters unrelated to your public job duties, and the Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences or Tulane University does not have a contractual business or financial relationship with your agency, no violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics would be presented.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Jennifer T. Land
For the Board